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Ways and Means Committee  
Education Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 850: Maryland Longitudinal Data System- Transfer of Student Data- Modifications**

**Hearing: February 19, 2020**

**Chairwoman Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,**

The 2018 Career Preparation Act established a requirement for the Higher Education Commission to collect and provide the following information to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center: Professional and occupational licenses from Department of Labor and Department of Health; Vocational certificates from Maryland Community Colleges; and industry certifications from a national certifier that receives state funds.

This bill will fix the legal and procedural issues with the law to allow the data to be collected directly by the MLDS Center. This data is important because it provides greater insights into career pathways and can help MLDS better understand the outcomes of different programs that lead to professional and occupational licenses and careers.

Under current law, data is collected by the Higher Education Commission and then transferred to the MLDS Center. This bill will allow the MLDS Center to directly collect the data. It is more secure to transfer the data once - as opposed to multiple times. This will make this process more straightforward for all parties involved.

HB850 will also clarify that the Health Occupation Boards, not the Secretary of the Department of Health, are responsible for providing the data. The Health Occupations Boards are independent of the Secretary.

Last but not least, HB 850 adds a representative of the executive directors of the Health Occupations Boards to the MLDS Governing Board which aims at addressing the Department of Health's concern about the lack of representation on the MLDS Governing Board

I respectfully urge the Committee to vote favorably on HB 850.

Sincerely,  
Delegate Stephanie Smith